
ASTRONOMERS DISCOVER MYSTERIOUS MASSIVE OBJECT: 40 BILLION TIMES SIZE OF SUN

WASHINGTON (APRIL 10)
UPI - Astronomers have discovered an extremely massive, mysterious dark object inside two colliding galaxies that could be a black hole much more massive than ever thought possible.

If the object is indeed a black hole, it is at least 40 billion times more massive than the Earth's sun and 10 to 100 times more massive as any black hole previously believed possible.

The object could also be a dormant quasar, from which galaxies are believed to have been born more than 10 billion years ago, astronomers speculated.

The object was discovered by Andrew Wilson of the University of Maryland at College Park, Joss Bland-Hawthorn of Rice University in Houston and Brent Tully of the University of Hawaii. Their work is described in an article in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

"This huge mass and its great concentration and darkness are puzzling and unlike any found previously," Bland-Hawthorn said.

GOLD NUGGET ASTEROID ORBITING EARTH

An asteroid known as Asteroid 1986DA has been found to contain some 100,000 tonnes of platinum and 10,000 tonnes of gold.

The 2km long 'space nugget' would be worth approx \$120 billion on today's market.

The asteroid's orbit brings it tantalisingly close to Earth, a mere 32 million kilometres away. It is hoped that the development of robotic engineering will one day harvest the orbiting fortune.

Scientists speculate that this asteroid was once the core of a 'proto planet' measuring



up to 500km across.

(Source: *Sunday Telegraph*, 9th June 1991)

REASON FOR FLIGHT OF THE KURDS ?

It may be of no consequence in the greater scheme of things at this time, but a report was shown by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation suggesting that one of the reasons for the flight of the Kurds to the Turkish and Iranian borders was that their fighters had carried out a massacre of captured Iraqi soldiers when in control of Kirkuk, Mosul, and other population centres in northern Iraq.

When advancing Iraqi troops recaptured these centres they apparently found mass graves containing the bodies of their colleagues. The television report showed a refrigeration container on a truck which was said to be full of Iraqi bodies.

One or two bodies were shown in mid-shot at the open door with someone spraying water on them.

The report suggested a mass community panic was triggered by fear of Iraqi retribution.

COCA-COLA'S SECRET REVEALED?

An 84-year-old retired beverage distributor claimed recently that he has had the original Coca-Cola formula for almost 40 years.

Lee Williams wrote in to Dallas Morning News columnist Marylyn Schwartz, after she had written about the "new Coke" in her column. Williams said he was given the formula in 1948, when he had a sales route for the Dr. Pepper Company.

A pharmacist named John Reed told him that he used to make his own syrup for the cola because he had been given the original recipe. Reed said he had gotten the recipe from an ingredient salesman who wanted to sell him the ingredients for the syrup. He then pulled the formula from a file marked "1898" and let Williams make a copy of it.

If it's true, then this is your big chance to make up a batch of "The Real Thing" yourself. Here's the

recipe:

- 30 pounds of sugar
- 2 gallons of water
- 2 pints of lime juice
- 4 ounces of citrate of caffeine
- 2 ounces of citric acid
- 1 ounce of extract of vanilla
- 6 drams (3/4 oz) of fluid extract of cola
- 6 drams of fluid extract of coca

Don't forget to mix with carbonated water before you drink it, like any fountain drink. If you try it, let us know how it comes out.

According to the Coca-Cola Company, the formula has never been given out.

CONVICTED TORTURER APPOINTED UN PEACEKEEPER IN KUWAIT

Fiji Independent News Service, Tuesday, April 30, 1991.

A convicted kidnapper and torturer has been appointed as a member of the Fiji Army's seven man United Nations observer team (UNIKOM) which has left for Kuwait.

Captain Sotia Ponijiasi led a team of soldiers on October 24 last year that kidnapped and tortured one of Fiji's leading human rights campaigners, physicist Dr Anirudh Singh, the Chairperson of the Group Against Racial Discrimination (GARD).

Captain Ponijiasi and four other soldiers were convicted in Suva on November 22 of abduction and grievous bodily harm but given 12 months sentences suspended for 15 months and a fine of F\$340 each.

The light sentences drew public criticism at the time.

GEOLOGICAL MYSTERY LIES DEEP BELOW STATE

Deep, very deep, in the heart of South Georgia, miles beneath the tiny crossroads town of Surrency, lies a mysterious, newly discovered geologic formation never detected anywhere else in the world.

Geologists say the "Surrency Bright Spot," nine miles beneath South Georgia's piney woods, may be an ancient reservoir of water or other fluid formed more than 200 million years ago by the collision of North Africa and North America.

"It's big, and we've never seen anything like it before," says Dr. Larry Brown, an associate professor of geological sciences at Cornell University, who was part of a scientific team that discovered the formation.

Brown, a director of the Cornell-based Consortium for Continental Reflective Profiling (COCORP), which is developing a detailed picture of the Earth's mantle, says the formation - "bright" only in terms of the way it reflects sound waves - is about two miles in diameter and appears to be shaped like a contact lens.

If it is a subterranean pool of water or other fluid, it could force physicists to revise models of the Earth's crust. Until now many of them felt the heat and pressure at those depths were too great for fluids to exist.

Nine miles down, temperatures are nearly 500 degrees Fahrenheit and pressures are great enough to flatten the sturdiest truck like a pancake.

"We really don't have a good idea what the object the formation is composed of," says Brown. "If it is water, it would upset a lot of scientific theories, and it would cause us to rethink our ideas about the role of water in forming the Earth's mantle."

Surrency Mayor Stanford Tillman, first informed of the unique geologic feature last week, has his own theory.

"It might have something to do with Surrency's ghost," he says. "If this town is known for anything, it's for the ghost that

supposedly haunted the old Surrency house owned by the family for whom the town is named during the 1870s and 1880s."

Tillman says inhabitants of the house reported dishes flying off shelves, logs jumping off the fire and bricks coming through the walls. The "ghost" became so famous that people rode the train from Atlanta just to see the "haunted" house, which burned down at the turn of the century.

BABY SWEEPED OUT TO SEA SAVED BY A DOLPHIN

Amid the damage and chaos caused by the cyclones in Bangladesh, there emerged at least one positive story.

A baby swept 30km out to sea was rescued by a dolphin, according to a statement made by State Environment Minister Abdul-lah al-Norman. The baby was rescued from the dolphin's mouth near Chokoria and is recovering in hospital.

(Source: *Sun Herald*, 12 May, 1991)

EARTHQUAKES ON THE INCREASE

Over 52,000 people died as a result of earthquakes last year, according to researchers, more than any year since 1976. That is more people in just 1 year, than were killed for the entire decade of the 1980s in earthquakes.

68 significant earthquakes occurred in the world last year, which is 8 more than the annual average for the 1980s.

A significant earthquake is defined by the US Geological Survey as having a magnitude of at least 6.5 on the Richter scale, or a powerful tremor that causes casualties or heavy damage.

The 7.7 quake that struck western Iran last June killed more than 50,000 people.

And that's not all!

• The *Daily Telegraph Mirror* of 6th May this year reported a "swarm" of earthquakes in central Victoria. 70 earthquakes were recorded over just a few days, the largest measuring 3.7 on the Richter scale.

• The *Sun Herald* (30th June 1991) reports that Los Angeles had its strongest earthquake in 20 years, measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale. Lucky for the city that the epicentre of the quake was 70km north

east of the city.

• If that was not enough, just a couple of nights ago, we experienced a mild earth tremor here in southern Queensland. They are getting closer.

INCREASED SOLAR FLARES UPSETS EARTH.

The earth has been bombarbed with a significantly increased amount of solar flare radiation. Maybe this and the earthquakes are related? There are 'experts' who will say this is the case.

Several large eruptions on the Sun's surface have disrupted communications systems, damaged electrical power equipment in the USA, and generated a potentially corrosive electrical current in a pipeline in central Australia.

Charged particles take slightly more than a day to reach the Earth, where they severely disrupt the magnetic field.

(Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, March 28th, 1991)

TRAFFIC CAMERAS - SPRUNG SPYING AGAIN!

Last October we learned that the Traffic Cameras in Macquarie St., Sydney, were caught filming the Aboriginal protests outside NSW Parliament House.

Now, we learn that the hidden camera operators must be getting bored, this time the cameras in Clarence St., were caught filming the people at the swimming pool and on the balconies of the adjoining York Apartments.

Well, we assume they were bored, - maybe they were just doing their job?

(Source: *Syd Morn. Herald* 5th April 1991, "Column 8")

AUSTRALIA - THE CORRUPT COUNTRY?

"If you had asked me a few weeks ago to name a country where corruption was rampant in the nation's most powerful finance institutions; where key witnesses before vital national inquiries were intimidated before they appeared; and principal witnesses and their evidence were publicly denigrated by the head of the inquiry after

they appeared; where the press was so constrained by legal injunctions and fear of litigation that they were frightened to pursue important public issues; and where parliamentarians are frustrated in their attempts to use their parliamentary privilege to place key evidence before the Parliament and the people, I would have said Chile or Nicaragua.

Sadly, the answer today, in March 1991, is Australia!

Senator. Paul McLean - Australian Democrat Senator for New South Wales.

US BOMBS MISSED MOST TARGETS!

With the Persian Gulf War over and won, the Air Force has chosen to disclose a fact that few television viewers or newspaper readers could have suspected while the fighting was going on: The famous "smart bombs" made up only 7 % of all the US explosives dropped on Iraq and Kuwait. In fact, despite all those TV scenes of precision-guided bombs going down the chimneys or in the doors of Iraqi targets, **70% of the 85,500 tons of bombs dropped on Iraq and Kuwait in 43 days of war missed their targets.**

The point is not that military officials lied: they said the war was being won, and it was. It is not even that they impermissibly distorted the facts; smart bombs were about 90% successful - though the nation was *not* told that 81,980 tons of unguid-

ed bombs had an accuracy rating of only about 25%

Of these, 62,137 missed their targets. The real, and dangerous, point is that the Bush administration and the military were so successful in controlling information about the war that they were able to tell the public just about what they wanted the public to know.

From an article in the New York Times (March 20,1991) on the Op-Ed Page by Tom Wicker

WHO LIT THE OIL WELL FIRES?

Several reports have filtered out of the middle-east saying that the allied bombers set the oil wells on fire. I recently downloaded this item off the computer networks.

A story was carried in The Guardian, May 22, 1991, in which J. Viallis, an oil consultant on the U.S. Black List because he "spoke out," believes that the allies set all of the wells afire. He presents a reasoned discussion to support the idea that there is a 50/50 chance that these wells were ignited by allied air power. In part, he claims the Iraqis did not have the technology nor the coordination to do the job.

Viallis says this is the worst environmental emergency that the world has ever faced. He says, and correctly so, that the response was to hire four firefighting teams was not appropriately strong. He also claims approximately 90% of the fires are within Iraqi territory, and says this crucial information has yet to be mentioned in the media.

NORIEGA WORKED FOR THE CIA

Not a surprise to most people is the public revelation that former Panamanian ruler, General Manuel Noriega "worked" for the CIA.

What is a bit more of a surprise is the disclosure that Noriega supported American interests by supplying missiles to Argentina during the Falkland Islands war.

Although the United States ultimately backed Britain in the 1982 war, the CIA got Noriega to ship Exocet missiles to the Argentine military, according to Noriega's lawyers.

(New York Times, May 16 1991)

USA PLANNED FOR WAR WITH THE UK

In case you were wondering about who's side the USA is on, this item may confuse you even further.

In 1930, the US drew up plans for a war with Britain, in which Canada would have been the main battle ground.

Joint Plan Red, as it was known, aimed at the elimination of the British Empire as a trade rival. The document was drawn up by the Joint Board of the ARmy and Navy in May 1930, a year after the stock market crash.

It identified Britain as Red, Canada as Crimson, Australia and New Zealand as Scarlet, and the US as Blue.

It remained an active American strategy until 1939, when Joint Plan Orange superseded it.

Orange was Japan.

PEACE PROTESTER SUMMONS HAWKE

The Tasmanian peace activist who allegedly spurted fake blood onto the vehicle carrying the Prime Minister has summoned Bob Hawke to appear as a material witness to his hearing.

Mr Barry Jessup delivered the summons at the ALP Conference in Hobart after avoiding security officials.

Mr Jessup told Nexus that he had intended to do some street theatre depicting the dead and injured Iraqi civilians killed in the Gulf War as a protest to Australia's involvement, but when the Hawke entourage tried to elude the protesters, Mr Jessup said the only thing he could think of in the few moments left, was to spurt the fake blood onto the car as it sped past.

Mr. Jessup was charged with committing a public nuisance.

